

A photograph of a man and a young girl fishing in a pond. The man, wearing a white t-shirt, grey shorts, and a blue and red baseball cap, stands behind the girl, holding her fishing rod. The girl, wearing a yellow t-shirt and a floral skirt, is holding the fishing rod and looking into the water. The background shows a grassy bank and some trees.

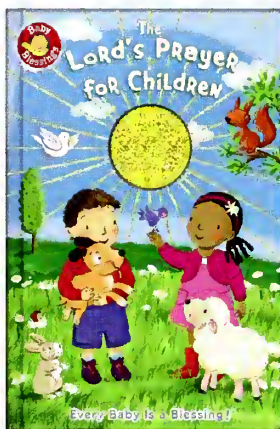
# T · F · W · B

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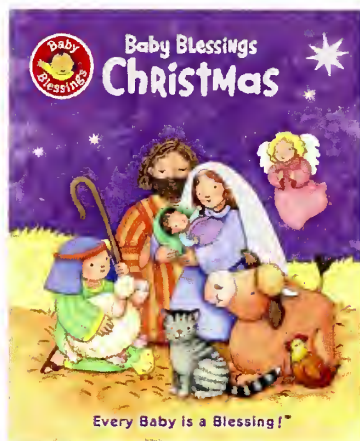
*It has been said that any  
man can be a father  
but that it takes a special  
kind of man to be a Dad!*

JUNE 2013

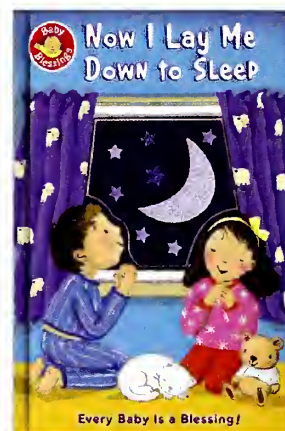




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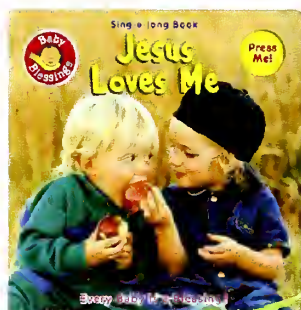
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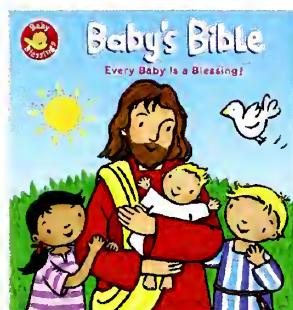
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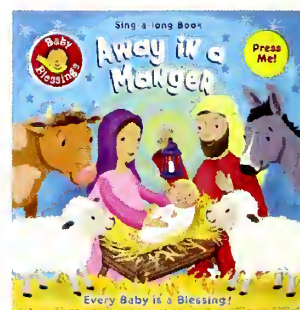
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*Spreading the Word. For Life!*

# 2013

# June

## Cragmont Assembly Month

### The Original Free Will Baptist Monthly Planner

This is a calendar of major denominational events. Also included are some regular holidays and special days/seasons of the Christian year.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Eastern NC Disability Summit	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



# REFLECTIONS

A Guest Editorial

## He Still Speaks to Me

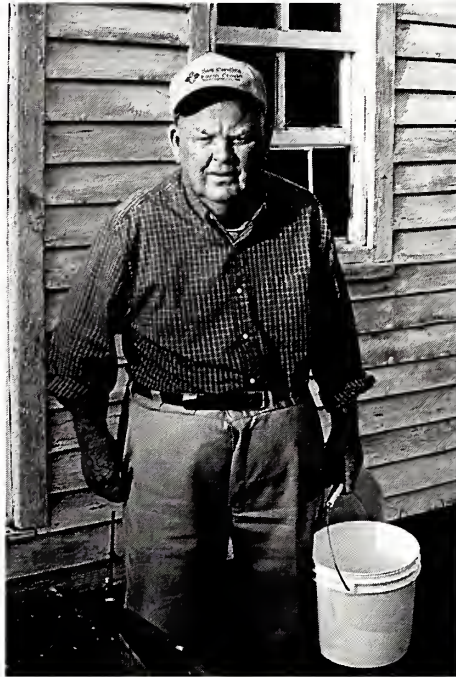
By The Reverend Mark Hobbs

There is a picture on my computers. It is a photo of my father. I look at this photo often. It was taken about two summers before my Dad died.

My wife and one of our daughters had gone to my parent's home to pick giant blueberries. My dad, though frail and unsteady on his feet, insisted on joining the picking party. He was coming from inside the pack house as I was coming from my car. With camera in hand I asked him to stop. That's how I got this photo.

There he is. A cap on his head, a blue plaid shirt and khaki pants adorn his body. A big white bucket is gripped by his left hand. The early morning sun drenches his face with radiant light. A folding chair is in the picture. It will accompany him to the lush berry bushes. I don't think I will ever forget the day. It was a simple day like we'd shared hundreds of times before. We worked, talked, laughed, and spent time together. The blueberries were delicious. The visit and time spent together was extravagant.

I can go back to the bushes, but it is not the same. My father's tired body gave out and he died about a year and a half after I took the picture.



(Dad) was always believing and hoping for a better future. He was always giving and willing to help others. He was always ready to listen and very careful not to pass judgment.

I look at the photo often. Sometimes I smile. Often I cry. I always remember. In those moments, my Dad still speaks to me.

He was always believing and hoping for a better future. He was always giving and willing to help others. He was always ready to listen and very careful not to pass judgment. He was patient and liked to tell jokes. He trusted God. He tended to his business and tried to help his family.

When I look at my father's photo, he still speaks to me. He talks to me through the things he said, the things he did, and the attitudes he displayed.

When I look at the picture, I can hear the last words he whispered to me: "I love you."

The photo reminds me that we often take the people we love for granted. We think, "He will always be here." "How can he leave me?" It forces me to wake up. Life is a gift from God. We ought to appreciate this marvelous gift, and we ought to remind those we love that we do.

As Father's Day 2013 nears, let us all give thanks to our Father in Heaven for teaching us about love and the joy it brings us in this life and the life to come.



Mark S. Hobbs, born to Shelton and Jane Hobbs of Smithfield NC, was nurtured in the Christian faith at Hopewell Church where he and Gracelyn married in 1980 and was ordained in November 1980 by the Cape Fear Conference. He graduated from Mount Olive College, Barton College, and Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. After a five year pastorate at First Church, Rocky Mount, he served as an Air Force Chaplain for 20 years until retirement in 2006. He has served as pastor at Snow Hill Church and taught Air Force Junior ROTC at North Johnston High School since 2006. He serves on the Central Conference Ordaining Board, Chaplaincy Commission, and Free Will Baptist Press Board. His three children and two grandchildren are gifts from God.

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## FEATURES & COLUMNS

- 2** *Reflections: A Guest Editorial*
- 4** *Fathers, Fear, and Olives*
- 24** *Pondering the Past with Celia Hales*
- 25** *Lesson Inner View with Adrian Grubbs*
- 26** *A Sling and a Stone with Marc Boswell*
- 27** *Psalms for the Soul with Linda Herring*
- 28** *Dr. Pepper's Book Corner*

## DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>6</b> Cragmont        | <b>12</b> Foreign Missions    |
| <b>8</b> Children's Home | <b>14</b> Mount Olive College |
| <b>11</b> Sunday School  | <b>20</b> Home Missions       |

## ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

- 22** NC Foundation for Christian Ministries

## 30 COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## ON THE COVER

A father and his daughter enjoying quality time together.

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DUKE UNIVERSITY



# Fathers, Fear, and lives

*By The Reverend Justin Barnett*



I am the proud father of a five-year-old little girl named Taryn. She turns six in June and is in kindergarten this year. She has enough of her father in her that it has always been an adventure with Taryn. I remember a rather dull day that quickly grew more venturesome. I had been busy working at home and I decided to make a trip to Lowe's so I could get some materials I needed. Taryn wanted to go with me so I let her. She has never liked to walk when we are together, and to this day, she always wants me to carry her. I had her on my shoulders and we were walking through Lowe's when she started pulling my hair. I said something to the effect of, "If you don't stop pulling my hair, I'm going to make you walk." She kept on. I said, "Taryn! Stop that!" She responded, "But, Daddy, I'm just trying to get my gum!"

Although she can be aggravating at times, it is a tremendous blessing to be a father. It is also a great responsibility. Recently, I came across a photo on Facebook that I promptly shared with all of my Facebook friends. It was a picture of a young girl that looked a little older than Taryn. The caption read, "If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to." The message of the picture resonated with me and I began to think.

What can I do to ensure that my children will follow Christ? I thought of Psalm 128. Many scholars believe that it is a psalm that was written especially to fathers. During my time in Israel, I learned that this psalm is called the "marriage prayer" by the Hebrew people because it is often sung at Jewish weddings. It is what devout Jewish families desire their men to be like, a blessed godly father.

Psalm 128 reads: "Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!" (Psalm 128:1-6 ESV)

The Hebrew word translated "blessed" in Psalm 128 is full of meaning. The word is often translated "happy" in English translations, but it also carries the idea of prosperous, fortunate, and envied. In the Hebrew language, the word is plural. It is kind of like saying it twice. One receives double happiness, prosperity, fortune, and blessings if they fear the Lord.

The psalmist makes a strong connection between fearing God and truly being blessed. The primary focus of the psalm is the blessings that come to fathers through fearing the Lord. The psalm teaches that "fearing the Lord" is the means of blessing. Naturally, one would ask, "What does it mean to fear the Lord?"

The fear of the Lord is not fear—like my wife is afraid of bugs and snakes. The correct interpretation of the fear of the Lord is more than just "afraid" of God, but rather, we show Him due respect. We reverence Him. We recognize that He is God and that He is holy. "Fear of the Lord" means that God must be taken seriously. He must not be trifled with. He must be the one we earnestly desire to please and honor. I once heard Sinclair Ferguson lecture, and he described this fear as "that indefinable mixture of reverence, fear, pleasure, joy, and awe which fills our hearts when we realize who God is and what He has done for us." The fear of the Lord is realizing how big and powerful God is. It is knowing how wonderful and great He is. It is living in this knowledge.

# If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.

How can we know that a father fears the Lord? The answer is given in the psalm: "walking in His ways." Instead of using rhyme, like English poetry, Hebrew poetry, like the psalms, uses parallelism. In Hebrew poetry the second line of a stanza will often explain or describe the first line. In this Psalm, "walking in His ways" is describing what fearing the Lord is. One that fears the Lord will walk in His ways. Walking in His ways means obedience!

Notice the psalm says, "walk in His ways" not "my ways" or "your ways." We cannot be like Frank Sinatra and say, "I did it my way." If we want the blessing of God, we must do it His way. That means not just studying the Bible and teaching it to our children, but living it. Throughout the Scriptures, the idea of "fearing the Lord" carries the connotation of honoring God in the way that one lives. "Walk" in Psalm 128 is a metaphor for living. Walking in His ways is living a God honoring life of obedience to the Lord. The question is, "Do you fear the Lord and walk in His ways?" A good father will fear God and strive to walk in obedience to the Lord. A father who is blessed is a man of godly character and integrity. I believe that a man's character is the most important factor in influencing his children to follow Christ.

It is of vital importance that our children follow Christ. Not only is their eternal future at stake but the souls of future generations, as well. Future generations and how a father's character affects his children is also addressed in Psalm 128.

I spent the better part of the summer of 2011 studying the Hebrew language in Israel. One of the things that I learned about during my time there was olive trees. I toured the Garden of Gethsemane during the weeks we spent in Jerusalem. Gethsemane is a beautiful garden that is nestled among a grove of olive trees and our tour guide taught us all about the olive trees.

Psalm 128:3 discusses olive plants and says, "Your children will be like olive shoots around your table" (ESV). The Message paraphrase of the Bible puts it this way: "The children around your table are as fresh and promising as young olive plants." As parents, we often think of our children, but in our culture today we probably do not think of them as olive shoots.

Olive trees grow very slowly, but if cultivated properly they will yield fruit for up to 800 years. In biblical times, a person who owned olive plants and olive trees owned something of great value, something that would be of great value providing fruit and income for 20 to 30 generations. Our children are the same way. If we train them and raise them in the ways of the Lord, they in turn, will teach their children and the faith will continue to be passed along from generation to generation.

It is difficult to kill an olive tree by cutting it down because new sprouts are sent up from the root and all around the margins of the old stump, often

forming a grove of two to five trunks from a single root which originally supported only one tree. The Bible says the blessed father's children will be like olive shoots around his table. The God-fearing father will be the source of many children that are the same as he is. They will be God-fearing, too!

The olive tree is a very slow growing tree and it often takes it more than a decade for it to reach the point where it produces good fruit. The image that the Bible gives us here is of a careful cultivation of children that very slowly reach maturity. Like the olive tree, once children reach maturity, they bear fruit for many years to come.

Children are not compared to mushrooms that shoot up overnight, but to olive trees that take time to grow and blossom. Our children require nurture, care, and patience. A tree does not bear fruit overnight, but takes a lot of tender loving care, protection, weeding, and watering before there is fruit. That is the picture here, of children being nurtured towards fruitfulness as they mature. Just like an olive tree, a child needs time—your time. They need biblical guidance and nurture. A little spiritual "Miracle-Gro" called prayer doesn't hurt.

Fathers, our greatest work is not our jobs. My greatest work is not building up a church. My greatest work is not accomplishing academic goals through education. My greatest work is not preaching sermons. My greatest work is being a father who passes on to my children the values and faith of true biblical Christianity. My greatest work is doing all that I can to make sure that my daughter follows Christ.



## CHURCH & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Walnut Creek Church of LaGrange is looking for a Youth Director. If you love young people and working with them, please contact the Pastor, Rev. Tony McLamb at (919) 735-1071 or (919) 922-0642. If he cannot be reached please contact Janet Lane at (919) 222-4796.
- Folkstone Church has a full time pastor position open. Send résumé to Pulpit Committee, 206 Tar Landing Rd., Holly Ridge, NC 28445 or call (910) 327-2704 or 389-1160 for an application.





## A Cragmont Summer

According to my calendar, summer begins on June 21, but, "SUMMER" begins at Cragmont on June 10 when the first of the summer youth camp weeks start. Probably nothing defines Cragmont in the hearts and minds of young people better than their week of camp spent on this mountain. To many of these campers who have come year after year this place has become "holy ground" because of the spiritual renewal experienced here.

Summer at Cragmont is a blend of sights, sounds, and smells that linger throughout the year. For parents, the sights of Cragmont may be the colors of grass stains and red clay in suitcases returning home with no clean clothes or all clean clothes depending on how well the camper followed Mom's direction on hygiene during the week. For counselors, the sight that touches the heart may be a child kneeling in prayer.

The smell of a Cragmont summer would most likely be smoke. Maybe it is just the curling smoke from hamburgers on the grill for lunch. It might be smoke from a campfire that lingers long after the coals cease to glow within their circle of stones but continues to burn in the hearts of campers.

A Cragmont summer is also filled with the sounds of being alive. Singing comes to the mind first with laughter quickly picking up the tune. Conversation with the Savior-Creator weaves within the melody as the week continues. The tempo that is Cragmont's summer song ranges from the quick beat of excitement to the gentle heartbeat of commitment from God's children on God's mountain.

In the summer, Cragmont's purpose is fulfilled in a uniquely special way. It touches and revives lives through all the season, but during the summer its heart's call is toward youth. It reaches out to that wonderful time in an individual's life when they are seeking their way and purpose. Will a child choose a walk with Christ or will they embrace what the world has to offer? Will that teen commit the best of their life and talent to the service of God or will they primarily strive to attain fame and fortune according to the world's standards?

Cragmont has answered its call from God to work with young people each summer since 1945. Help us continue to fulfill this work for God through your prayers and gifts.





# 2013

## Cragmont Summer Schedule

### **Ministerial Association of OFWB**

(June 2–5, 2013) Stephen Prescott  
7605 Newton Grove Highway • Dunn, NC 28334 • (910) 567-5347

### **Dayspring Conference**

(June 5–8, 2013) Joan Little  
7063 Stantonburg Road • Farmville, NC 27828 • (252) 753-3217

### **Cragmont Youth Conference**

(June 10–15, 2013) Angela Mattox  
1469 Wintergreen Road • Cove City, NC 28523 • (252) 671-7176

### **Christian Cadet Conference**

(June 17–22, 2013) Joey Williams  
139 Windyfield Drive • Goldsboro, NC 27534 • (919) 734-9080

### **Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)**

(June 24–29, 2013) Frankie Baggett  
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road • Ayden, NC 28513 • (252) 746-7850

### **Pee Dee Youth Conference**

(July 1–5, 2013) Heath Connor  
727 Mount Olive Road • Bladenboro, NC 28320 • (910) 740-4454

### **Bed, Breakfast, & Blessing**

(July 5–7, 2013) Cragmont Assembly Inc.  
1233 North Fork Road • Black Mountain, NC 28711 • 1-877-699-7677

### **General Youth II Conference** (July 8–13, 2013)

Brad Williamson, Director: (252) 244-0207  
Wilma Parker, Registrar: (252) 522-0967  
PO Box 6423 • Kinston, NC 28501

### **General Youth I Conference** (July 15–20, 2013)

John Hill, Director: (252) 230-1845  
Todd Sutton, Registrar: (252) 341-1093  
788 Burrellfield Road • Snow Hill, NC 28580

### **Young People's Bible Conference**

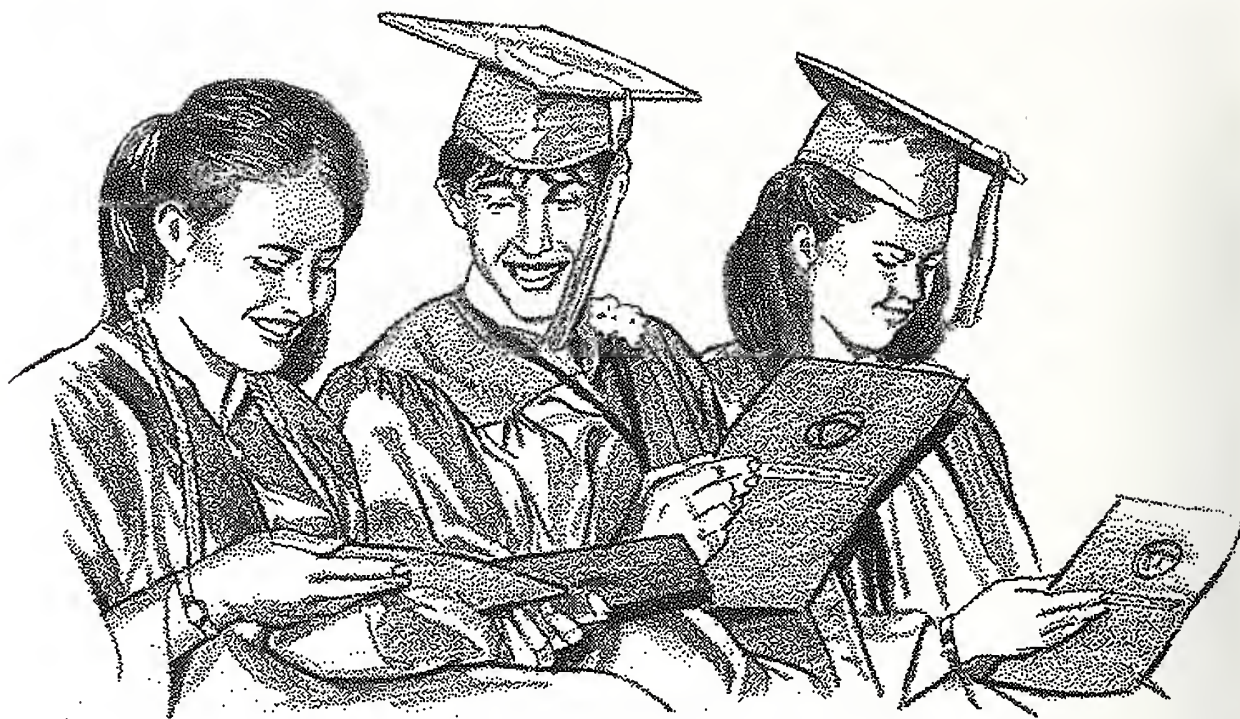
(July 22–26, 2013) Chuck Owens  
218 Wildwood Road • Havelock, NC 28532 • (252) 733-9031

### **Cornerstone Woman's Conference**

(July 28–August 2, 2013) Joan Little  
7063 Stantonburg Road • Farmville, NC 27828 • (252) 753-3217

### **Emmanuel Woman's Mini Conference**

(September 6–8, 2013) Joan Little  
7063 Stantonburg Road • Farmville, NC 27828 • (252) 753-3217



## School's Out!

Within a few days of the start of June, school will be out for summer. Where did the time go? It was a good school year for our residents. We have two young ladies slated to graduate, and we applaud them for their accomplishment. The joy that "we made it" is a constant topic of their conversations. Although I did hear one of the young ladies say "Whew! These were the longest years of my life—Kindergarten through the twelfth grade—13 years in school." I couldn't help but smile while thinking, "child, you have only just begun."

I would like to include two statements from one of our graduates. I'll call her "J," from when she first got here, and one after two years here.

This was after she was here only a short time. "I plotted every night how to run away from this place. This is not the place for me."

As time went on, J's attitude began to change and so did her agenda. This was a couple weeks back, before graduation. "This place has taught me a few things, some life lessons. I have matured. I am motivated. I am going to school and I plan to become a nurse. Thank you Free Will Baptist Children's Home."

It is my prayer that all of the children at the Home succeed and are able to obtain their dreams. We may not always see positive changes, but as long as we "sow the seeds" in the hearts and minds of the young people we serve, God will provide the harvest.

Please keep the staff and residents of the Home in your prayers. Especially these two graduates who are getting ready to face a new set of challenges on their journey to adulthood.





## Campus Visitors

Recently we were blessed with visitors from several church groups. It is always a pleasure to have you visit with us. Some visited for campus tours, some visited to share meals and other goodies. No matter the reason, we are always excited to have you visit with us and see the beautiful campus God has blessed us with—a place we can minister to His children. Our most recent visitors are Friendship Church, Middlesex (upper left), Watery Branch Church, Stantonburg (upper right), and Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie (bottom left).

## Needs List

- Upright Bagless Vacuum Cleaners
- Waterproof Mattress Covers (twin size)
- Vinyl Pillow Covers
- Desk & Chair Sets for each Bedroom (\$150 each, call for details)
- Furniture Fund (living/den room furniture)
- Storage Bowls (plastic—large & medium sizes)
- Luggage

The **67<sup>th</sup> Alumni Homecoming** will be held on campus on Sunday, July 14, 2013. The service will begin at 10 A.M., with registration starting at 9 A.M. We encourage all alumni to come home and visit.



Our Change for Children 2013 campaign is drawing to a close. Thanks to all who supported the Home through this annual fundraiser. These funds will help during the summer months when the children are out of school.



Please join us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
***Paper and Cleaning Products Drive***  
 Friday, July 19, at 7:15 P.M.  
**Fireworks Night!**

Paper and Cleaning products will be collected at the gates to benefit  
**Free Will Baptist Children's Home in Middlesex, NC**

Our Layman's League has joined once again with the Carolina Mudcats to promote a day to help the Children's Home. On July 19, the Mudcats are going to have bins set up at the entrances of their stadium for people to bring paper/cleaning products for the Children's Home. This is a great opportunity for your church, Layman's Leagues, Woman's Auxiliaries, and Youth groups to begin, even now, to collect paper/cleaning products and bring them to Tri-County Stadium on that day. There is a discount for tickets purchased in bulk and would make a great day of ministry and fun.

### **Campus Needs**

Paper Towels • Toilet Paper • All Types of Cleaning Supplies • Lysol • Pine-Sol • Lemon Cleaners  
 Pledge (whatever cleans good—No Glass Cleaner) • Laundry Detergent • Bleach • Dish Detergent  
 Personal Hygiene Items (antiperspirant—boys and girls, body lotions, bath powder, shampoo)  
 Twin Size Comforters Sheet Sets • Blankets • 33 Gallon or Larger Trash Receptacles  
 Trash Bags (33 gallon or larger) • Kitchen Towels and Dish Cloths

**All Church groups registered in advance will receive: \$6 Box Seat Special (regular price—\$10)**  
 To receive this special discount, all tickets must be paid for by July 8. Discount not available at the gate. Tickets will be mailed within 10 days prior to the game. Paper Products will be dropped off at the stadium.

#### **Paper and Cleaning Products Drive Questions?**

Call Bill Doane at (252) 753-3717

#### **Mudcats Questions?**

Call (919) 269-2287





# ***Announcing a Name Change***

In an effort to reach more people and to respond to their ever-increasing needs, the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is changing the name of the Annual Sunday School Institute to **LIFE** Conference. After 72 years, it is felt that the types of workshops cover more than just those subjects that relate to Sunday School specifically.

# **LIFE conference**



By changing the name of the Institute, we are better able to say that

**L**earning **I**s, indeed, **F**or **E**veryone

**Come and join us on March 1, 2014 for a time of FUN,  
FELLOWSHIP, and LEARNING at Mount Olive College!**



*The Briefing before the Baptismal Service.*



*The Rev. Taladro (right) assisted by Brother Cuba (left).*

## Baptism Ceremony

### Palawan, Philippines

BY MERLY A. TALADRO

Go preach and baptize: this is the Great Commission of Jesus, the command that should be obeyed by every Christian. There were four young people in Abo-Abo First Free Will Baptist Church who had surrendered their lives to the Lord and wanted to be baptized. This is the result of the Bible study of Brother Freedom Amenin. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. Marcos P. Taladro, and was assisted by Brother Cuba. Praise God for their commitment to the Lord together with their parents to serve the Lord. Glory be to God!

## Youth Revival

### Varna, Bulgaria

BY NICOLAY

We praise the Lord for the 12 new members of the youth group in the Original Free Will Baptist Church of Varna. Most of their parents earn their daily bread by being pimps and prostitutes in West Europe. These young people are very precious to us because all eight of them are from Muslim families and all of them are determined not to share the destiny of their parents.

Pastor Kosta and I lead the youth to Christ. We studied in Genesis and explained the consequences of the fall. It is wonderful to see how young people are led by and transformed by the living Word of God.



*Listening to the Word of God.*



*Pastor Kosta tells the youth about the role of Christ for our salvation.*



# Testimonies



**Sister Veronica (22 years old)** Eight years ago, the doctors told me, that I could not live without blood thinning medicaments. I had various sicknesses, but the medication made me feel worse. The pain I had made me feeble and I was losing a lot of blood. Some months ago, sister Milena, the wife of pastor Kosta, arranged a visit to the Japanese hospital in Sofia. It was discovered that I have been treated for the wrong diagnosis and the doctors were wondering that I am still alive. Now I am thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ and sister Milena, and to all of you brothers and sisters, who have prayed that I may be healed in the wounded healer.



**Sister Eli (20 years old)** I had to take hormones for the rest of my life. After five to six years of taking them daily, I accepted my condition and the fact that I will not have children. However, I kept constant pain in my stomach. Some weeks ago, I got surgery. The doctors removed the cists from my ovaries and I got different medicaments. There is a big chance to stop with the hormones and eventually get children. Now I feel much better and I believe that God has cured me from this condition.



**Sister Maria (38 years old)** As I walked on the pedestrian way, alone with my thoughts, not realizing that I was actually walking on the road where cars moved with high speed, I heard the sound of brakes. I knew for certain, that that was the end and the car was going to hit me. A miracle happened. The car stopped at my feet, I did not even get a scratch. God placed His hand upon me.



**Sister Silvana (18 years old)** I was suffering from severe kidney problems, but since visiting the Baptist Church, I feel much better. Pastor Kosta and the church are praying for me and I was even baptized. Praise is to our Savior Christ and I am thankful to all who prayed for me.



**Sister Temenushka (14 years old)** Suddenly one evening I got pain in my stomach and vomited. I got scared and called pastor Kosta but he was not in the church, and sister Milena brought me to the hospital. My parents are working in Germany and the church is my family when I am sick or in need. I got an infusion and intense treatment for four days. I was from one side sad, my parents were not with me, from the other, thankful that the church is praying and visiting me in the hospital, bringing me food. The love I see at the church, makes me want to change. I am so happy and thankful that me and my sister, Silvana, got baptized this summer. We are indeed children of God. Great and passionate is our Lord Jesus Christ.



## The Baptism of Temenushka and Silvana

From left to right: Pastor Costa, Temenushka, Nikolay, Silvana, Veronika, George, Joan, Nasko.





Mount Olive College held a Holocaust Day of Remembrance on Tuesday, April 9, which included a worship service on the Church's role in the Holocaust, a faculty forum, a student forum, and a keynote speech from Holocaust survivor, Abe Piasek.

Talking to a standing room only crowd, Piasek shared his terrifying experience as a child in Nazi occupied Poland. He was only 12 years old in 1939 when Poland was occupied by Nazi Germany. A year later, he was forcefully separated from his family and taken to Radom, a forced labor camp. Piasek spent years in the labor camps of Auschwitz and then Weinhausen before the end of the war in 1945. Piasek talked about being interviewed by Steven Spielberg for the award-winning film "Schindler's List," which is featured in the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. He was also interviewed by the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem.

The College community placed flags on Kemp Commons to represent the 11 million killed during the Holocaust. In the final event of the day, students and Campus Ministries, along with faculty, staff, and community volunteers packed 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now.



The College broke the Eastern North Carolina Stop Hunger record. The record had previously been 10,000 meals packed in one hour and 10 minutes. Mount Olive College packed 10,167 meals in 45 minutes!

We thought it would be enough to tell of the tidal wave of hatred which broke over the Jewish people for men everywhere to decide once and for all to put an end to hatred of anyone who is "different."

Elie Wiesel—Holocaust Survivor



# *Educational Opportunities at* **MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE**

**Space Available for Fall 2013 Enrollment:** Enrollment opportunities are available at all MOC locations for enrollment in the Fall semester.

New freshmen and college transfers are invited to enroll in the daytime program where campus life, residential housing, and athletic programs are all a part of the academic experience. Adult students interested in starting or completing a degree at one of the evening locations, are invited to apply now. Summer and fall semester options are available. To get started, complete the online application at <[www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu)> and complete the request a visit form to make an appointment with admissions personnel.

**Admitted Student Day, Friday, June 21, 2013** is the next day high school seniors who have been accepted and made their deposits to attend the daytime program will be convening to make their Fall 2013 class schedules. Parents and family members are welcome to attend.

If you have not completed your application or made your confirmation deposit, contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions at <[twoodard@moc.edu](mailto:twoodard@moc.edu)>, to find out the next step or call 1 (800) 653-0854. July 19, 2013, is the final admitted student day scheduled for the Fall 2013 term.

**Scholarships** are available to new freshmen and college transfers who are planning to start college in the Fall of 2013 at the Mount Olive daytime program. If you have already submitted your application, it will be considered for merit scholarships automatically. Scholarships for music, art, science, and athletics are also available. Contact the Office of Admissions at <[admissions@moc.edu](mailto:admissions@moc.edu)> for more information.

**Accelerated Programs for Adults:** Admissions representatives are waiting to hear from you in Mount Olive, Jacksonville, New Bern, Washington, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park (RTP). Visit <[www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu)> or call 1-800 NEW GOAL to be connected to the location nearest you.

Other academic majors being offered online include Criminal Justice, Human Resources Management, MOS, and Accounting. Seated programs, in one night a week format, are available in business, religion, management/administration, healthcare management, early childhood, and general studies. Stand alone online classes are also available. **The tuition cost for these programs is offered at a reduced rate.** Complete the free online application at <[www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu)>. Financial aid is available.

Programs are also available at MOC Goldsboro on the Seymour Johnson AFB. For assistance, contact Michael Ammons at <[mammons@moc.edu](mailto:mammons@moc.edu)>.

The FAFSA is the form all college attending students complete to learn their eligibility for federal financial assistance. The letters stand for Free Application for Federal Student aid (FAFSA). The form is available online at <[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)>. Gather your 2012 tax information before beginning the form. Use the Mount Olive College number 002949. When you submit the form, it will go to the Department of Education where your financial aid eligibility will be calculated. MOC's financial aid office will receive a copy of your information so that we can help you get all the financial help you are eligible to receive. Financial Aid counselors are available to help at 1 (800) 653-0854.

# Jeffrey Massey Shares His MOC Transforming Story

Jeffrey Massey of Princeton is a 22-year old senior at Mount Olive College majoring in computer information systems and minoring in business management. He is an Eagle Scout, a member of Phi Beta Lambda and attends Pleasant Grove OFWB Church in Pikeville. After graduating in May, Jeffrey would like to get a job in the financial industry or with county government. In his own words, Massey writes about his transforming experience at Mount Olive College.

"When my twin sister, Lindsey Massey, and I were born three months early, I weighed 11lb 13 oz, and she weighed 11lb 15oz. The doctors said that we would have the mental capacity of fourth graders, and it would be a miracle if we graduated high school; so a college education was never in our future plans. After graduating from high school with honors, the choice of colleges came up. I went to another college for a year before transferring to Mount Olive College.

After a tough start at my first college, I was a little skeptical. Then at MOC, I



realized that the professors actually want you to succeed. They actually care, and most of them give you their cell phone number and tell you to call them if you have a problem. The professors encourage you to do your best, and if your best is not in a passing form, then they help you find a way to change that.

At Mount Olive College I have learned leadership skills that go above

and beyond what I learned as an Eagle Scout, and I'm using them now as an assistant scoutmaster to teach boys the skills they need to be successful. My life has been transformed at MOC by the professors—they go above and beyond the call of duty. They show you that it's okay to be different, and they help you reach your dreams. They are willing to do whatever it takes for you to succeed. Thank you Mount Olive College!"

Mount Olive College graduated approximately 360 students at its 59<sup>th</sup> spring commencement on Saturday, May 4. Graduation exercises were scheduled for 2 P.M. in the George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena.

Mount Olive College is a private institution rooted in the liberal arts tradition with defining Christian values. The College, sponsored by the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, has locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, Goldsboro, Research Triangle Park, Washington, and Jacksonville. For more information, visit <[www.moc.edu](http://www.moc.edu)>.



## Smart Receives Mount Olive College Young Alumnus Award

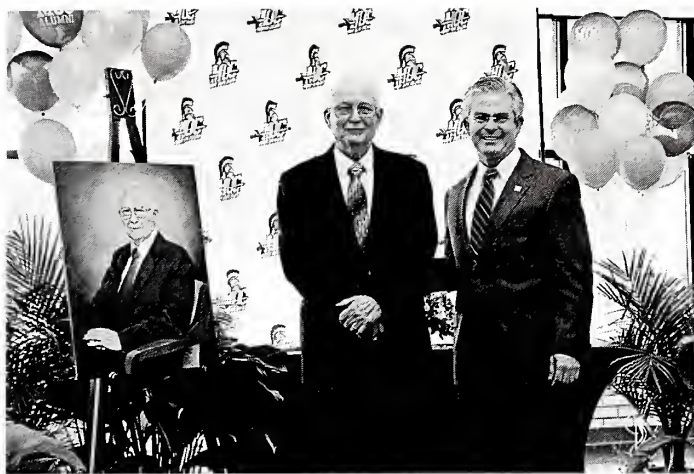
During its annual Alumni Awards event, Mount Olive College awarded Kelley Smart, a 2004 graduate of the College, with the Young Alumnus Achievement Award. The award recognizes young alumni for exceptional achievement that reflects honor to the College, distinguishes themselves as leaders in the areas of civic, religious, and professional life, and serves as inspiration for others. The award was presented by alumna Genevieve Taylor from the Class of 1957.

"Kelley is a very knowledgeable, well prepared pastor," said Taylor. "He is actively involved in all church and denominational activities and serves in leadership capacities in the conference."

Smart is senior pastor at Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church in Greene County where he has worked in various capacities since 2004. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Free Will Baptist Press and as assistant moderator of the Central Conference, having previously served as clerk. Smart has been a counselor at Cragmont and has served as a short-term missionary with OFWB International to Mexico. His volunteer efforts have included service with Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, and Stop Hunger Now. Smart remains connected to Mount Olive College. He is currently mentoring two MOC students interested in ministry.

Kelley, and his wife, Marci Rollins-Smart, reside in Goldsboro, NC and are both involved in full-time ministry.





## Dr. Michael Pelt Honored

At the Spring Alumni Weekend, Dr. Michael Pelt was honored for his many years of faithful service to Mount Olive College. Dr. David Hines, Dean of the School of Arts and Science, presented a portrait of Dr. Pelt and gave the following remarks.

"Former President W. Burkette Raper often said that one of the most critical decisions he made as a young president was the selection of Dr. Michael Pelt to chair the Department of Religion, a position he held from 1957 until 1994. Dr. Pelt's commitment to scholarship, his passion for the liberal arts, and his devotion to Christ and his Church have left a legacy which continues to give direction for Mount Olive College as we serve our students, communities, and sponsoring church.

"Mount Olive College is not bricks and mortar. Buildings and operating systems do not teach. At best, these are facilities. Learned men and women teach. As such, the legacy of Mount Olive College is defined by our teachers—teachers like Lorelle Martin, Jim Coates, Ken Dilda, Willis Brown, Frank Harrison, and our honoree Dr. Michael Pelt. These teachers knew that their mission was more than conveying information; their mission was to see lives transformed. Dr. Pelt cared enough for his students to always demand their best.

"On a personal level, I have had the privilege of studying with many fine scholars in my own theological journey. While there have been a few persons that may have known more about a particular aspect of biblical/theological studies, I have yet to meet the person with a broader range of knowledge of the Bible, theology, and church history than Michael Pelt. While his research preserved the story of our church in *A History of Original Free Will Baptists*, his teaching has shaped our future.

"Our college is still quite young, but those of us who serve here now stand on strong shoulders. As alumni, let's do our part to make sure that we preserve the stories and continue the legacy of professors like Dr. Michael R. Pelt."

## FWB Students Honored



**Jonathan Whitford**  
(New Bern)

Received The Thomas Bruce and Mary Moore Dudley Scholarship Endowment at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Ceremony. Whitford is a junior religion and minoring in music major. He is a member of Saints Delight Church.



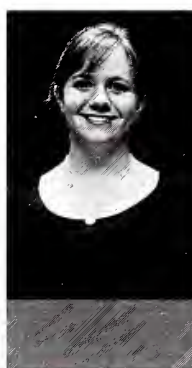
**Jason Mitchell**  
(Snow Hill)

Received The W. Burkette Raper Outstanding Religion Student of the Year Award at Mount Olive College's Annual Awards Ceremony. Mitchell is a senior religion major. He is a member of Marlboro Church and serves as youth minister at Kenly Church.



**Lindsey Parnell**  
(Clayton)

Received the Alumni Student of the Year Award. Parnell is a junior religion major and a member of Micro Church.



**Bailey Sutton**  
(LaGrange)

Received the Charles B. and Margenette A. Hinnant Music Scholarship. Sutton is a freshman psychology major and a member of LaGrange Church.





Mount Olive College Pelletier Creek House • 4704 San Juan Circle • Morehead City, NC

### *Looking for a Family Vacation Destination?*

Available: Mount Olive College Pelletier Creek House  
5 miles from Atlantic Beach • Access to Bogue Sound

Features: Deep water boat dock, conference room, deck, sleeps 14 adults and several children, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, den, cable TV and VCR, quiet neighborhood

For more information, including weekly and weekend rates, contact Margaret Wells at Mount Olive College at (919) 658-7743 or 1 (800) 653-0854 (Ext. 1281) or e-mail <mwells@moc.edu>.

## *2013 FWB Graduates*



*H. D. Grady with his family.  
He is a member of Pearsall's Chapel Church.*



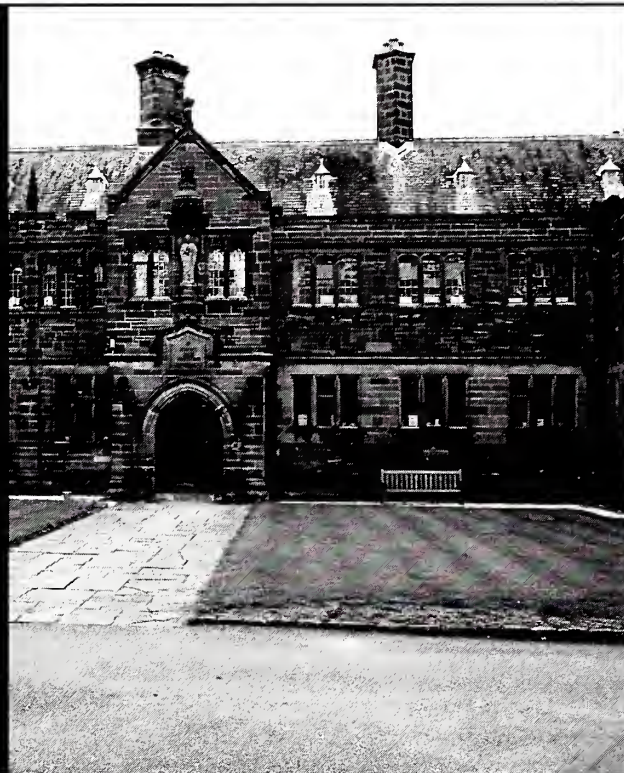
*Charlie Young with his family.  
He is a member of Micro Church.*



# 2014

## Mount Olive College Alumni Trip to Wales

May 4-11, 2014



The Mount Olive College Alumni Association will be hosting its first overseas trip. We will be going to Wales May 4-11, 2014. We will have the privilege of staying at Gladstone's Library located in Hawarden, Wales. For further questions, email Hope McPherson Fields at <hfields@moc.edu>. This trip is open to any and all friends of Mount Olive College!

	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
Airfare per person (RDU to Manchester)	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total for 5 Nights at Gladstone's Library (Includes bed, breakfast, & dinner)	\$455	\$655
<b>Total cost per person*</b>	<b>\$1,955</b>	<b>\$1,828</b>

### Breakdown per Person\*\*

	Single Occupancy	Double Occupancy
Airfare and Room Deposit (per person, paid to MOC)	\$1,540	\$1,520
Amount Paid to Gladstone's Library (on last day, per person)	\$415	\$307.50

Deposits:	Single	Double
August 1, 2013	\$250	\$250
September 1, 2013	\$185	\$190
October 1, 2013	\$185	\$190
November 1, 2013	\$185	\$190
December 1, 2013	\$185	\$190
January 1, 2014	\$185	\$190
February 1, 2014	\$185	\$190
March 1, 2014	\$180	\$130
<b>Total to MOC:</b>	<b>\$1,540</b>	<b>\$1,520</b>

\*Prices may vary due to airfare and the addition of other necessary transportation.

\*\*A deposit of \$40 is required up front for rooms. The remainder balance will be paid at the end of our stay. It is the responsibility of the traveler to pay this balance.

Please note that this is an overseas trip and a passport is required. If you do not have one please allow 4-6 weeks for this to process. For more information on how to obtain your passport visit <[http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first\\_830.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html)>.



BRING THEM IN  
L-14 2013

## Eastern North Carolina Disability Summit

**La Grange**  
**First Free Will Baptist Church**  
La Grange, North Carolina

**Friday, June 21**

7:00 P.M.—No Cost!

**Saturday, June 22**

10:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.

\$30 per person

\$25 per person for groups of 4 or more

- † Worship with us Friday night through music, testimony, and skits
- † Featuring the Beyond Suffering curriculum from Joni & Friends
- † Learn how to reach the disabled in your community

For more information, contact:

**The Rev. Scott Broadway**  
Coordinator

scott@wheelsonfireforchrist.com

**Erin Broadway**  
Education Coordinator  
erin@wheelsonfireforchrist.com

**Wheels on Fire for Christ**  
(252) 286-4949 or (252) 268-9097

### Register Now!

Registration required for Saturday. Registration forms are available online at <[www.wheelsonfireforchrist.com](http://www.wheelsonfireforchrist.com)>, via email, or by calling (252) 268-9097.

**Reserve your space today!**

**Come find out  
about the Luke 14 Mandate!**



# "Roll" Me Out to the Ballgame...

The sun shines brightly as a gentle breeze blows. The players take the field and the batter comes up to bat. The announcer excitedly cheers "Let's play ball!" It's any ordinary day for baseball, the good 'ole American pastime—except for one thing. These are not ordinary players—they are extraordinary. That's because this ballgame is different. It is not governed by "three strikes you're out" but instead by the love of Jesus and those that love HIM!

Special Needs Baseball was started by Jay Bucksot, a member of Arapahoe Original Free Will Baptist Church, and his brother Patrick Bucksot in 2003. Jay felt called to start a league where his son Jacob, who has a rare brain condition called microcephaly, could play and be included. When the league started in 2003, there were only a few players and they barely filled up one field at Creekside Park in James City. Now, there are four fields full every game day. Games are held from the third Saturday in April through the second Saturday in June. Volunteers from various churches, organizations, and individuals come out every Saturday to help players run bases, bat, and to cheer them on! A church or organization sponsors a meal after every game for the players and volunteers. If you want to receive a blessing—go to a Special Needs Baseball game! There has even been a fall league started in Jacksonville, run by Claire Harris, 18, who was inspired to start a league for her community.

Players of Special Needs Baseball don't have to worry about the traditional rules of baseball. There is only one rule for Special Needs Baseball and that is "there are no rules." The purpose is for the players who have a variety of different disabilities and special needs to be able to be a part of a team and feel the love of Jesus from volunteers who love them. Even when weather prevents them from playing, they still find a way to have fun and enjoy a meal together. At the game on April 27, Wheels on Fire for Christ teamed up with the Biker/Prison Ministry to volunteer and provide the meal after the game. They used The Harvest Connection's concession trailer to serve the hotdogs and it was a huge hit! Together they served over 200 players and volunteers! God has truly had his blessing on all of these ministries!

Jay, and his wife, Terri, will be speaking Friday and Saturday at the BRING THEM IN: L-14 Disability Summit on June 21–22, 2013. They will be sharing their testimony on Friday and about Special Needs Baseball on Saturday. **YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!** Other speakers will include Byron Sellers of Matthews, NC who has worked with Joni and Friends Charlotte; Kate Brueck of Joni and Friends Charlotte; Dr. Ed Cooper, a renowned physician of Kinston, NC; Mrs. Ana Johnson of Cape Carteret, NC who has worked with Dr. James Dobson of Focus on the Family; the Rev. Tim Heath of Key Life Ministries and Pastor of Johnston Union OFWB Church; the Rev. Mike Williams, Assistant Coordinator for the Harvest Connection and Pastor of New Life Mission Church in Leland, NC; and many more!







# Helping Good Pastors Better Serve Our Churches

Meet the Spring 2013 Ministerial Graduates Supported  
by Your Gifts to the Foundation Shepherd's Scholarship Fund



**The Reverend Doctor John Hill, Pastor of Winterville OFWB Church, received his Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.) degree from Campbell University Divinity School on May 10, 2013.**

The Doctor of Ministry program at Campbell University provided a framework for Christ-centered ministry research. It was a privilege to work with professors and colleagues on a journey for a more meaningful ministry. However, I am most proud of the men and women who serve the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination as faithful servants in the preaching, teaching, leading, and serving of God's people. Qualities of these believers are attractive and authentic. Regardless of mission and location, their tireless, and often unappreciated work, goes unnoticed. I am amazed how these dedicated friends continue to work so hard, for so long, and be paid so little! I have so much to learn from them spiritually, emotionally, and theologically. My doctoral project sought to do just that!

I believe our denomination needs to cultivate relational ministry among its pastoral leadership. We have so much to learn from one another! I may have completed a degree process, but I recognize the wisdom of others and receive their insight with gratitude. May God bless our leaders as they seek to expand God's vision for their lives, churches, and for all Original Free Will Baptists. Therefore the culmination of my M.Div and D.Min work resulted in the project titled: Circle of Friends: A Program of Continuing Education for Pastoral Leaders Using a Small Group Learning Community Approach for Education and Mutual Support.



**The Reverend David Vesper, Pastor of Beaufort OFWB Church, received his Master of Divinity (M.Div) degree from Campbell University Divinity School on May 10, 2013.**

As I reflect on my life, there are many people who have assisted me on this journey. My thoughts go back to October 1953 when I was saved at the age of 12, at a fall revival. I have never forgotten the church, the evangelist, the message he spoke, or the place at the altar where I accepted Jesus. My parents both prayed for me and encouraged me. I used to talk to Mama about dreams I had as a boy. She would say, "David, God wants you to preach for Him." A very big influence in my journey to becoming a preacher was Dr. Burkette Raper, who became President of Mount Olive College on my thirteenth birthday. It was through his wisdom and encouragement that I am where I am today, having received my Master of Divinity Degree, with languages. The North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries was another way in which he helped me, through scholarships from the Foundation.

My goal is to be the very best minister and pastor possible to the churches that I serve. This educational journey at Campbell University School is a God sent blessing. My journey at Mount Olive College to get my B.A. in religion, led to the opportunity to go to Campbell through a partnership agreement between the two colleges. I thank God for the opportunity to continue to learn even at my age and for helping me to get through these six-and-a-half years to graduate.



For more information about the Foundation or how you can do something good, through a gift now or a plan for future giving, contact Ricky Warren, Executive Director, by telephone at (910) 658-5250 or by e-mail at <rwarren@ncfcm.org>.





**The Reverend Ronnie Hobgood, Pastor of LaGrange OFWB Church, received his Master of Arts in Christian Education (M.A.C.E.) degree from Campbell University Divinity School on May 10, 2013.**

It has been a joy and a privilege to attend Campbell University Divinity School. I began Campbell Divinity School in January 2007. It has been a privilege to attend this school that has an unqualified commitment to the local church. The professors and staff have been the most supportive individuals for those preparing to serve in the local church. I have a great love for the Original Free Will Baptists, and I am thankful for the partnership Mount Olive College and the North Carolina Foundation for Christian Ministries has with Campbell University Divinity School. The future growth of our denomination for local churches and beginning new churches and ministries calls for committed men and women to prepare themselves for spiritual leadership. It is my prayer and vision for our ministers and laity to work together as the body of Christ that the kingdom of Christ might be advanced in the world, and Original Free Will Baptists are an important part of this kingdom growth.

On May 10, 2013 I graduated from Campbell University Divinity School with a Master of Arts in Christian Education in Pastoral Ministry. This was made possible through the support of my family, church, N. C. Foundation for Christian Ministries, and financial support from Campbell. A famous statement at the Divinity School is: "Answer the call, it's worth a life." As a pastor for over 35 years, I can truly say, "it's worth a life." Serving the Lord is an incredible journey!

I have been the pastor at La Grange First since June of 2007, and also previously served as their pastor from 1982-1988. I am married to the former Mitzi Corbett and we were blessed with two children, Jessica Moss and husband, Alan, of Lillington, NC and Rev. Joshua Hobgood, who serves as Youth Pastor at La Grange First FWB Church. I am also Granddaddy to Emma Moss of Lillington.



**The Reverend Doctor Brad Williamson, Pastor of Macedonia OFWB Church, received his Doctorate of Ministry (D.Min.) from Campbell University Divinity School on May 10, 2013.**

As I reflect back upon my life, I humbly realize how good God has been to me. He has blessed me with a wonderful partner, Jennifer, who has supported me every step of the way. He has provided us five wonderful gifts in Jonathan, Rebecca, Elizabeth, Lydia, and Hannah. I am able to serve God and His church as Pastor of Macedonia OFWB Church in Craven County. Since being ordained in 1998 I have had the opportunity to serve the denomination in various roles on the local church, conference, and convention levels. God has enabled me to earn my B.A. in Religion from Mount Olive College, my M.Div. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and now my D.Min. from Campbell University. My educational journey has been long and varied, but I believe I am a better minister because of that journey.

Each step in this educational process has revealed that there will always be more to learn and share with those with whom I interact. The sacrifices my family and I have had to make have been worth it to accomplish these milestones. I appreciate what the Foundation and others have done to help me financially as I have pursued my formal education. From this point forward, my plan is to do what I have always done, and that is do and go wherever God leads me. I do hope God gives me the opportunity to share the work of my D.Min. project on intentional discipleship within the local church with other churches in our denomination and perhaps beyond.

*The Foundation gratefully acknowledges these gifts given during March of 2013 in honor or memory of those listed.*

### **In Memory of:**

Dr. Horace Ray and Alberta R. Ray  
By Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Merritt

Senator Robert "Bob" D. Warren, Sr.  
By Ricky and Angela Warren

Crafton S. Tart, Sr.  
By Mr. and Mrs. Billy Jackson

Crafton S. Tart, Sr.  
By Ricky and Angela Warren

Walneta Caulder Godwin  
By Ricky and Angela Warren

### **In Honor of:**

The Reverend Ricky J. Warren  
By Bertie Sanders

Gary F. Barefoot  
By Dr. E. Lee Glover

Linda Lassiter  
By Ricky and Angela Warren

Carolyn Warren  
By Ricky and Angela Warren

Dixie W. Honeycutt  
By Ricky and Angela Warren

## **Retirement Income Comparison**

<b>CD Rate*</b>	<b>CGA Rate**</b>
<b>0.25%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

\* National Average 12-month CD rate (May 3, 2013). Source: Bankrate.com

\*\* Lifetime Charitable Gift Annuity rate available from the Foundation for a person age 70

**Let us tailor a plan to fit your needs.**

# Pondering the Past

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with Celia Hales

## WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH

All too often we struggle in silence, not praying, just struggling, and yes, the struggle is a bit of suffering. I often think that the worst aspect of any suffering that we are called to endure is the awful isolation. We have schooled ourselves not to complain (at least not much and not often) to family and friends, and we feel, therefore, so isolated. We may invite fear and anxiety, real emotional turmoil, in our isolation. This is a bit of the “dark night of the soul,” a medieval concept.

I often think that our perchance to keep from complaining is part of the problem. We need to share our pain, and if the others in our immediate circle do not want to listen, if we have worn them out, then we can pray. Always we can pray.

We are forgetting what we hear in church. We are never truly alone, for in the wee hours of the darkest morning, our Creator has not left His creations—us—to fend for ourselves. Even when we don’t feel anything except, maybe, pain, He is there. God never is absent.

Frequently, we let our own thoughts scare us. This is a concept of a modern self-help writer, Richard Carlson, a psychologist who counseled in happiness and the way to find it. He said that our thoughts are just our thoughts, not reality, and we do not have to be frightened by what is just a thought.

And he is right. So many of us cringe with the “what if’s” of this world. And there are many for none of us can accurately predict the future. We don’t know what lies ahead for us. And in the middle of the night, what lies ahead may seem very dire indeed. If we realize that our thoughts do not predict the future, good or bad, then we can better settle down. And we can choose to think peaceful thoughts instead.

This is not easy in the middle of the night.

What, then, do we do when we do not sense God’s Presence? Every individual of faith may have a different answer, and some answers may sound quite secular, for God is God of the secular world, as well.

For myself, when I awake and sleep does not seem likely to return again that night, I often listen to favorite music for its calming effect. I do not keep my husband awake with the sounds, for I am fortunate to own a MP3 player, a tiny gadget with earphones that give the sounds only to my ears. Frequently, the familiar music lulls me back to sleep, and I am good until the morning light awakens me once again. At such times I always know that everything will look better in the morning. And each morning I find that this truth is borne out, even when times are tough.

God is in that music, however secular it might appear. God has not abandoned me to night fears and struggles that seem worse at 3 A.M. than at any other time.

I thank God for His Presence in the tiny bit of suffering that I undergo. I know that my “suffering” is a tiny bit in comparison to some other brothers and sisters in the world. But I know that God has left none of us to struggle alone. He is always, absolutely always, right there with us, only awaiting our heartfelt cry for help.

And His help comes. When God’s glorious morning finally arrives, we know that we are not alone in this world. We have others to whom we can turn (and we ought to do so), and the sun seems to bring solace to a troubled heart. The adage, “It is darkest before the dawn,” seems appropriate here. Do not dismiss the secular ways of dealing with pain, if the pain is truly severe. Other people—pastors, counselors, even everyday friends and family—can be God’s representatives to us, and what they tell us can help immensely.

But there is nothing like the sense of God’s presence to set our little world aright again. And praying to Him may be all that we need, praying without ceasing that will lead us to walk a green earth again.



A former religion librarian at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Celia now lives with her husband Paul in Oxford, Mississippi. She was previously employed at both the Free Will Baptist Press and Mount Olive College.



# Lesson Inner View

with Adrian Grubbs

*A deeper look inside this month's lessons from the OFWB Foundation Curriculum and commentaries based on the International Sunday School Lessons.*

The lessons this quarter are about worship—"God's People Worship." We will study passages from Isaiah, Ezra, and Nehemiah. The first lesson (Isaiah 6) describes the call of the Lord to Isaiah to become a prophet. That call took place in the context of a worship service. Isaiah was a priest, but it is not clear if he was leading worship or was in the congregation. During worship Isaiah responded to the call of God by declaring, "Here am I; send me!" (6:8).

To prepare for this study of worship, there are a couple of questions to explore that are pertinent to our present time: *What is worship?* and, since Isaiah was a prophet, *What is a prophet?* Let us take the prophet first.

Popular thinking is that a prophet is one who predicts the future. But that is not the primary purpose of the prophet in the Old Testament. A prophet was one who was called and sent by God to proclaim God's message to His people. Prophets called the people to turn back to God and to change their ways and their attitudes in regards to political policies, social interactions, justice in the legal system, economic practices, sexual morality, and the true worship of God. We, as the people then, tend to get caught up in the pressures and problems of day-to-day affairs, and we allow the attitudes and practices of the world around us to seep into our consciousness and behavior. However, the prophets kept in view the larger picture and calls us back to what God has called us to be. All this affects how we worship. When our attitudes and actions are righteous, our worship will be pure; but when our thoughts and deeds are selfish, our worship will be corrupt. When we have truly worshipped God, our attitudes and relationships will be changed; and when our

relations with others are wholesome, then we are able to truly worship our Lord. Worship and conduct go hand in hand. That is why the prophets in the Old Testament spoke so much about social and legal reforms and called for the true worship of our living Lord.

Now, what is worship? First, worship is not about us and what we feel; worship is about God. It is not a question of what I get out of worship but what I put into it. It does not matter how I feel after a worship service, but how God feels about how I have worshipped Him.

Many churches today are struggling with different forms of worship. Should we change to attract outsiders, or do we stay with the form we are familiar with? In the Old Testament the forms of worship changed through the ages. In the time of the patriarchs worship seems to have been more personal and private. Some events that produced changes in styles of worship included: the Exodus, rise of a monarchy, construction and destruction of the temple, the Exile, growth of synagogues, and rebuilding the temple. Changes in the social structure brought new forms of worship.

Also, Christian worship has changed over the centuries. The first Christians met during the "hours of prayer" in the temple and in private homes. They met in catacombs during times of persecution. When Christianity was legalized cathedrals were built. The Protestant Reformation, the American frontier, and the revival era introduced changes to the forms of worship. What the next generation will bring is anybody's guess. One thing is sure: changes will come. We must make sure that whatever form worship takes, Christ is at the heart of it.



H. Adrian Grubbs, Jr., was born in Dade City, Florida, to the Rev. Herman A. and Lillian Kinard Grubbs. The family moved to Mount Olive, NC, in 1959. Adrian was ordained in the Eastern Conference in 1963 and has served eight churches. After a 30-year pastorate at Deep Run OFWB Church he retired in 2007 because of vocal problems. Grubbs has served the denomination as President of the Sunday School Convention, Moderator of the Eastern Conference, member of the Eastern Conference Ministerial Examining Board, and is currently on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. Adrian and Jo Ann have one son, two daughters, and six grandchildren.

# A Sling and a STONE

## Significance in Christ as a Young Adult

with Marc Boswell

### *The Disturbingly Poor Peasant*

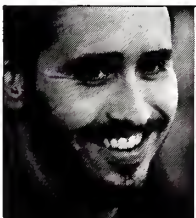
Some Christians don't like poor people. There. Let's get it out in the open. To be fair, some of these Christians don't have a problem with certain individual poor people. Nevertheless, for many, the idea of "the poor" continues to point symbolically toward a homogenous group of undeserving, untrustworthy, immoral, and lazy people—minus, of course, those people who are deemed to be exceptions to the rule. Other Christian folk may not have it out for poor people, but they certainly don't like the idea of an elected government disbursing aid to poor families and children. To do such a thing might undermine the divinely inspired Protestant work ethic as stated in the Eleventh Commandment: *Thou Shalt Work Diligently. Thou Shalt Never Need the Assistance of Anyone. Shame Shall Be Visited Upon the Family of Those Who Fail to Pulleth Themselves Up by Their Bootstraps.* Such a Commandment implies that good Christians ought not to be poor. After all, one would only be poor in the United States due to lack of effort or immoral, sinful decisions.

The stigmatization and the concomitant theological construction of the poor as *sinful* were brought to mind most recently after I presided over the Lord's Supper at a local congregation in Richmond. A line in the communion liturgy read, "We praise thee, O God, for Jesus, born of *peasant* parents." After the service, I was confronted by a member of the congregation in the vestibule about my inappropriate and inaccurate description of Joseph and Mary as "peasants." To call them peasants, he said, implied that they were poor. In fact, they were not poor. Jesus came from royal lineage, he reminded me. Joseph was a carpenter, and carpenters, of course, were good *working class people*. In his mind, working class folks are upstanding, hardworking people who should not be so thoughtlessly lumped in with the other supposedly immoral, lazy, *poor* [peasant] people. His strong reaction and

aversion to the term "peasant" was indicative of the shame, stigma, and disdain that still structures the way many Christian folk view individuals who happen to be poor.

I tell this story and reflect upon this particular type of Christian attitude toward the poor only because I have seen the mental pain and spiritual anguish that such anemic theology produces. I have prayed with and worked alongside of many adults, young and old, who find themselves in conditions of poverty at no fault of their own. I have ministered to youth and children in camps and congregations who only have food to eat or health insurance because of government assistance programs. I have seen loved ones and friends of all ages desperately desire a job, working tirelessly to find one, but to no avail for months or years on end. I have watched as young adults, children, and older adults anxiously live paycheck to paycheck, not knowing how to make ends meet or what to do if or when an unexpected bill arrives.

To suggest that folks are in these situations because God is punishing or testing them is cruel and sinful. To suggest that all poor people are poor because of moral failure or personal sin, likewise, is treacherous and dishonest. To suggest that they're a blight on our nation, or greedy "takers," or an unproductive "47%," likewise, is misleading, deceitful, and theologically disturbing when coming from the mouths of Christians. To portray Jesus as someone who calls into question the worth, value, or moral standing of the poor *simply because they're poor* seems to be as far afield of the good news of Jesus Christ as one can get. Yet, such messages come forth from pulpits, books, television stations, and political pundits, many of whom wave the Bible in one hand and the American flag in the other. This theological vision gives the impression that Christianity has no room for the poor. Ironically, one is left to wonder if such a thing can be characterized as Christian, at all.



Marc Boswell is from Saratoga, NC, where he grew up as a member of Spring Branch OFWB Church. He is ordained in the Central Conference and currently lives in Richmond, VA, where he is working toward the completion of a Ph.D. in the fields of Theology and American Religious History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.



# Psalms for the Soul

*with Linda Herring*

The Bible speaks to us but the Psalms speak for us. Here is the litmus test for your words—and it is a high standard. Psalm 19:14 says, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” The trouble with words is once they are spoken their impact can be either positive or negative and you cannot take them back. You can say you are sorry, but you may have to rebuild your credibility with the person you spoke to or about. A poet wrote: “A careless word may kindle strife, a cruel word may wreck a life. A gracious word may soothe the way, a joyous word may light the day. A timely word may lessen stress, a loving word may heal and bless.” So today let your words be faith-building, for people battle with doubt and fear. Let your words be comforting, for people have wounds we cannot see. Let your words be uplifting, for people get torn down by criticism and discouragement. Let your words be calming, for God has promised to bless you if you are a peacemaker. And let your words be character-building; that way you will leave people better off than you found them. Do not let the stresses of the day steal your Psalm.



Linda Herring is married to Vernon Herring. They have two children, Amy and Vernon and three grandchildren, Jenna, Jared, and Noah. Linda is an active member of the White Oak Grove OFWB Church in LaGrange, NC. Linda leads a Bible study group, Circle of Friends. She has been a drama director of two dramas that she wrote, They Called His Name Jesus and The Book of Ruth. She is a resource for the OFWB Woman's Auxiliary. Her outreach ministry includes this column in TFWB, a radio broadcast by the same name (aired on WAGO 88.7 FM), and a weekly devotional article for the La Grange Weekly Gazette and The Sampson Weekly. She also has a devotion book printed by the Mount Olive College Press.



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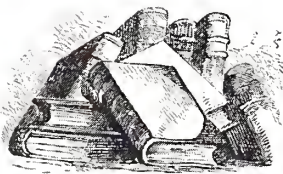
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# Dr. Pepper's Book Corner

Book reviews in this column are *not* meant to reflect any theological or political positions.

Dinesh D'Souza, *Godforsaken*

Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale Publishers, Inc., 2012. 274 pages. ISBN 978-1-4143-2485-2.

## Evil and the Fine-Tuned Universe

### Dinesh D'Souza

Dinesh D'Souza now serves as the president of The King's College in New York City. His book, *Godforsaken*, is his effort to focus upon the problems of suffering and evil in the world, using Psalm 22:1 as his focus: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Born in India, D'Souza is quite aware of the suffering of Asia and how the East deals with the question in contrast to the way Christians face the problem of evil.

### The Problem of Evil from the Views of Religions in the World

D'Souza goes back to the Greeks who "didn't believe in divine omnipotence" (26) but believed in Greek myth where the gods were often "capricious" (26) and "cruel" (26), because they did not always exist to benefit mankind nor to show any interest in mankind (26), offering no one hope unless the Greeks offered sacrifices to them.

D'Souza sees Islam which translates as *submission* (27) as a religion which stresses Allah's greater wisdom, making his followers not even question Allah's goodness. Buddhism sees suffering as caused not by the world but by "our minds" (27), because the material world really does *not* exist and is an illusion. We can only transcend suffering by "recognizing" (27) the "illusory quality" (27) of the world by "seeing" (27) through the world's "veil" (27). Buddhism's promise of nirvana is a promise of release from both suffering and the world. Hinduism sees suffering as deserved

from the laws of karma where the "sins of one life are required in the next life" (27) through reincarnation. For D'Souza, the reincarnation of Hinduism "is a philosophy of just deserts" (28).

### The Problem of Evil as Seen by Atheists

Atheists often have a serious disappointment at the root of their atheism. Christopher Hitchens's mother eloped with a clergyman only to commit suicide with him (9). Bart Ehrman denied God's existence after he saw ethnic cleansing atrocities. Michael Shermer renounced God after the paralysis of a young woman he was dating. Richard Dawkins saw the ruthlessness of evolution as he watched a female wasp lay her eggs inside a caterpillar so that these eggs could eat the caterpillar from the inside out (19). Sigmund Freud saw God as a wish fulfillment to avoid suffering and death as the last word. The hallmark of atheism seems to be the fact of suffering and evil in the world. The person feels "godforsaken" (25). In short, atheists are often wounded theists.

How then can God's omnipotence be reconciled to the existence of suffering and evil? D'Souza tries to use a *rational* approach in answering deniers of God's existence. He takes the word *omnipotence* and gives it a new spin. Omnipotence to the nonbeliever means that God's power should be everywhere at all times, reducing natural disasters, eliminating the evil of concentration camps, wars, genocides, and destructive diseases.

If God is all powerful, why is he not destroying suffering and evil?

God's power is seen to be based upon what D'Souza calls the *Anthropic Principle* (159). What is the Anthropic Principle? The Anthropic Principle is "the principle of the fine-tuned universe" (159) which presents the God of creation as a *God of process* with the four known forces of creation as constant and specific: (1) the force of gravity, (2) the electromagnetic force, (3) the strong nuclear force, (4) the weak nuclear force.

### The Anthropic Principle of Creation

The fine-tuned universe is five billion years old with the human body having 25 elements. When the universe was first formed, scientists see the universe containing hydrogen and helium. When supernovas exploded, atoms like carbon and nitrogen entered the universe, carbon coming "from planetary nebulas" (160). Scientists believe the "solar system formed nearly five billion years ago" (160). The entire history of the universe exists in the human body (160).

Oxygen entered the atmosphere through "photosynthesis" (161)—a process where "the energy of the sun converts carbon dioxide into organic compounds" (161). Plants produce oxygen as a by-product. Water may be split into hydrogen and oxygen through photosynthesis just as "hydrogen combines with carbon dioxide to form carbohydrates" (161).

With the human brain, man is aware of himself. The universe has been constructed

*article continued on next page*





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in such a way to “ensure the appearance of conscious, rational observers who can understand that universe” (163).

The constants of gravity are precise governed by Isaac Newton’s “inverse square law” (165). This law states “that the gravitational attraction between two objects varies directly in proportion to their mass and inversely in proportion to the square of the distance between them” (165). The constant of the ratio of the mass of the proton to the electron is also crucial. “The proton is roughly 1,832 times more massive than the electron” (164). Stephen Hawking acknowledged that the density and rate of expansion of the universe had to be precise to form stars and galaxies (165). Specific are the “electrical forces binding atoms” (166), and the “numeric value” of the “way stars form elements of the periodic table out of hydrogen” (166). The fine-tuned universe needs a supernatural creator

and it must be the way it is “in order to foster human beings” (171). The Grand Design has been a *process* that makes possible human life. For humans to exist the Second Law of Thermodynamics must exist—the “law of order and disorder, a law that says that things inevitably break down,” that the universe must “contain decay and dissolution—in other words, death” (175).

But suffering and pain? The design of the universe is specific, the preparation for human life including suffering, earthquakes, and diseases. D’Souza states: “If this universe is worth it, if our particular type of life in this particular universe is worth it, then the suffering must also be worth it, because it is part of the whole” (179).

### What About Evil?

D’Souza’s confrontation with evil is linked to his *rational* discussion of man’s

free will. He discusses the Fall in two forms: (1) the Fall of Lucifer, (2) the Fall of Man. The first Fall, that of Lucifer and the angels, points to their will to be “equal or even greater than God” (109) because they “sought to put their will above God’s will” (109). The result? Happiness was taken away from Lucifer and the angels.

The Fall of Man also is rooted in the free will—the choice to put self-interest above God’s interest. D’Souza insists: “It’s important to understand that Adam and Eve don’t fall by *figuring out* the meaning of evil; they fall by *doing evil*” (105). This intimate knowledge of evil is “borne of *experiencing* evil and *becoming* evil” (105). Not only is innocence lost; evil is experienced.

D’Souza claims: “If we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that God hasn’t forsaken us; rather, we are the ones who have forsaken him” (109).



Pepper Worthington was born in Kinston, NC, and married an OFWB retired minister, Michael Gauker Warning, in 1996. The Rev. Warning served as pastor to Free Union OFWB at Sea Level, NC. She received her B.A. degree cum laude at Meredith College in 1965, her M.L.A. degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1969, and her Ph.D. with Phi Kappa Phi honors at the University of Maryland at College Park in 1976. She has been a professor of English at Mount Olive College since 1979. She is also currently the director of the Mount Olive College Press.



# *Dola Dudley Award Presented at Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention*



The Dola Dudley Award is presented annually at the Spring Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention to a woman who shares the qualities of the late Dola Dudley. Mrs. Dudley was a leader in the Woman's Auxiliary work at the conference and state levels.

She also worked at Mount Olive College, where there is an endowment in her name, was a director of the Woman's Week at Cragmont, and supported all of the denomination's work.

Mavie Daughtry, member of Yelverton Grove Church, is the 2013 recipient of the award. She grew up in the Pine Level and Tee's Chapel Churches and joined Yelverton Grove Church in the early 1960s. She immediately joined the Woman's Auxiliary and has been a member ever since. She has held most, if not all, offices in her local auxiliary and several offices in the Cape Fear District Woman's Auxiliary. She is currently president of her local auxiliary.

Mavie received the Life Membership Award from the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary in 1985. She encourages all ladies to join her church's woman's auxiliary. She also encourages them to attend the Cape Fear and State Woman's Auxiliary Conventions and doesn't understand why they do not. She has friends in all eight OFWB Conferences and enjoys the fellowship of her friends and meeting new friends at the meetings.

Mavie began attending the Woman's Week at Cragmont in the early 1970s and only missed two years (the years her mother and husband died). She has attended most Morning Star retreat weekends since its beginning—most years taking her daughter and daughter-in-law with her. She goes to Cragmont every chance she can. She goes to the annual woman's auxiliary week in August, Morning Star weekend retreat, Cragmont Club Weekend, and goes with her family for weekends or a few days during the week to see her grandson.

She attends the annual Convention and supports all of the Ministries of the OFWB Convention. She is the church chairman for the Johnston County Dinner for Mount Olive College, a Bridge Builder, and has an endowed scholarship, the Mavie T. and R. Person Daughtry Endowed Scholarship, at Mount Olive College.

She has been a member of the Friends of Children program since its beginning and was instrumental in establishing the Ima D. Thompson Endowment in honor of her mother at the Children's Home.



Mavie is a loving and giving person. She prays, especially for her family, which includes two children, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and three more expected in the next two months. She is always present at their important events: graduations (preschool, high school, college), school programs, choir and band concerts, high school plays, church programs, and family vacations. If you do not think she is proud of her family, you should visit her home where she proudly displays a gallery of family photos.

Church has always been an important part of her life. If the church doors are open she thinks she is supposed to be there. She even sang in the choir for a while so she could go to choir practice. Mavie and Person would pick up children and take them to church and youth meetings. They worked with the youth and encouraged the church to offer programs for young people so their children would have the benefit of a good youth program. They encouraged the youth to go to Cragmont and participate in the Cape Fear youth rallies.

Mavie knew Dola Dudley and they were friends. They spent time together at Cragmont and working in the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary. Carolyn Jernigan said while presenting the award, "As we think about Dola, I remember she always was organized and seemed to have everything under control. She accomplished many good things for God and her fellow man, and loved her denomination and the ministries. Our recipient has those same qualities."

*article continued on next page*



# A Father's Day Tribute



**Top:** C. H. Overman with two of his grandchildren, Logan and Macy Mann, at their favorite place: Pelletier Creek, owned by Mount Olive College.

**Right:** C. H. Overman with family.



SUBMITTED BY TINA MANN

This month, we honor the great men in our lives. It has been a year since one of those great men left us to join his heavenly Father and walk the streets of gold. We remember the life of my father—the Rev. C. H. Overman. What an awesome man he was and I am so proud to have been called his daughter.

For those of you who have read his book, *Hands to the Plow*, you were able to see how this man lived and how much he truly loved the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination. I encourage you as Free Will Baptists to continue our beliefs and remember what we stand for.

The past year has been full of sadness for our family and to others who loved him. Not a day goes by that I don't miss him. His unique sense of humor, along with his wisdom, has truly been missed by all. Our family would like to thank everyone for all of the encouraging words, gifts of love, and thoughtfulness you have shown us. Your love is amazing!

I will close with scripture that Daddy had chosen and was read at his service:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go

and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also....I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:1-3, 6).

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).

*continued from previous page*

Upon receiving the Dola Dudley Award, Mavie said, "I feel so unworthy to receive this award, but no other award would be as meaningful to me as the Dola Dudley Award. The year I became an officer in my local auxiliary, I sought Dola's guidance and wisdom."

The Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Convention was held on Saturday, April 13, at Bethel Church.

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# In Loving Memory

SUBMITTED BY MARGARET SULLIVAN

Bettie Sue Tyson Forrest, wife of Elvy Forrest, entered her heavenly home a year ago in April 2012. She was a special lady and I would like to share my thoughts about her with you. Time has not diminished memories of her Christian faith and work while she was with us for 86 years. Devoted to God, her husband, and family, she extended her special talents, which she used for the glory of God, all her life through her church, Piney Grove Church near Greenville.

She acknowledged her love of God and that love was a light in her eyes, along with her tenacity to do what was right and not be judgmental of her peers. With a kind and thankful heart, she was an example of true Christian faith. She expressed her Christian beliefs and God rewarded her courage and her faithfulness because all she undertook resulted in a special beauty.

As an educator, her talent for developing the potential in children



was reflected in her career that was keen and perceptive with a gentle, thoughtful, and biblically oriented determined sense of right and wrong. She rejoiced in the success of her family, friends, students and her patience was unwavering and limitless. Her words of encouragement flowed gently and sincerely to whomever needed them.

We shared many hours of conversation over time. She was so wise and she heard what you said. She would reply softly by gently saying,

"Always remember God loves you. His answer to your prayer may not be your way, but God knows what is best for you. Focus on God's purpose for your life every single day. Always have faith in God."

Also, she had that special talent of recognizing the potential in a person and always encouraged that person to reach for goals in their life. She was such a courageous and kind soul. She was always joyful for others in Christian faith. Never did she miss the chance to touch your heart at just the moment you needed it most. Her words were sincere and it was comforting to know she cared for your well-being. She was steadfast in her beliefs and spoke often that forgiveness was always required of a Christian.

She loved nature—especially roses. Her yard in spring was always a beautiful garden. Her touch of elegance extended into her life and her work for the church.

As for our friendship, I felt humble and special that she called me "friend."

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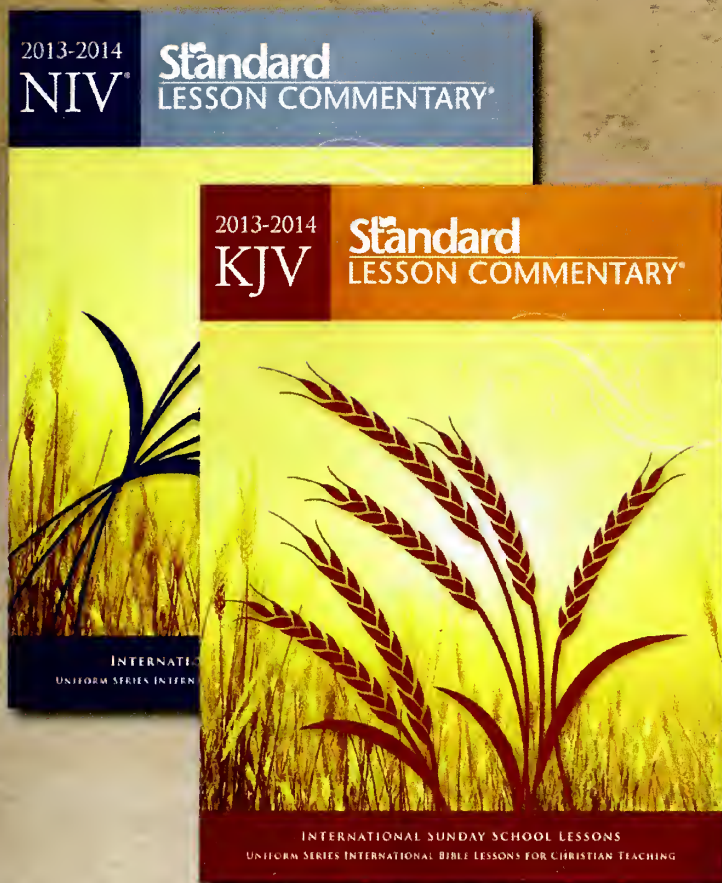
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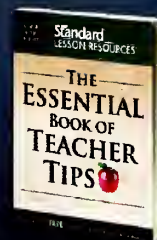
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